

# Comparisons of Job Characteristics

**Focus Occupation: Physician Assistants (29-1071)**  
**Associated Occupation: Medical Assistants (31-9092)**

Compare Knowledge  
 Compare Skills  
 Compare Abilities  
 Compare Detailed Work Activities  
 Compare Tools and Technologies

<<	Focus occupation element is much lower
<	Focus occupation element is lower
0	Focus occupation element is at a similar level
>	Focus occupation element is at a higher level
>>	Focus occupation element is at a much higher level

## Knowledge

Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 63

Focus Occupation: Physician Assistants (29-1071)  
 Associated Occupation: Medical Assistants (31-9092)

Associated Occupation's Key Knowledge Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating		Evaluation of Focus Occupation
Customer and Personal Service	11.3	13.7	17.9	>>	Current knowledge level is likely more than sufficient
Clerical	7.3	12.7	6.7	<<	Extensive education and/or training may be required
Medicine and Dentistry	3.7	12.5	22.5	>>	Current knowledge level is likely more than sufficient

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

## Skills

Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 91

Focus Occupation: Physician Assistants (29-1071)  
 Associated Occupation: Medical Assistants (31-9092)

Associated Occupation's Key Skills Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating		Evaluation of Focus Occupation
Active Listening	11.0	13.3	14.3	0	Current skill level may be sufficient
Speaking	10.8	13.0	14.0	0	Current skill level may be sufficient
Monitoring	9.9	11.5	12.6	0	Current skill level may be sufficient
Social Perceptiveness	9.1	11.4	13.5	>	Skill level is likely sufficient
Service Orientation	7.9	10.1	12.8	>	Skill level is likely sufficient

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

## Abilities

Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 96

**Focus Occupation: Physician Assistants (29-1071)**  
**Associated Occupation: Medical Assistants (31-9092)**

Associated Occupation's Key Abilities Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating		Evaluation of Focus Occupation
Oral Expression	12.4	13.9	15.4	>	Current ability level is likely sufficient
Oral Comprehension	12.5	13.5	16.0	>	Current ability level is likely sufficient
Problem Sensitivity	11.1	11.6	16.0	>>	Current ability level is likely more than sufficient
Speech Clarity	10.2	11.4	11.8	0	Current ability level may be sufficient
Written Comprehension	11.0	11.4	14.2	>	Current ability level is likely sufficient
Near Vision	11.1	11.2	12.8	>	Current ability level is likely sufficient
Speech Recognition	9.9	11.0	11.0	0	Current ability level may be sufficient
Written Expression	9.8	10.7	12.5	>	Current ability level is likely sufficient
Perceptual Speed	7.4	8.2	7.7	0	Current ability level may be sufficient

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

## Activities that Both Occupations Have in Common

**Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 89**

**Focus Occupation: Physician Assistants (29-1071)**  
**Associated Occupation: Medical Assistants (31-9092)**

Work Activities	Exclusivity of Activity
Administer injections	60
Administer medications or treatments	46
Assist in examining or treating dental or medical patients	84
Collect clinical data	56
Collect specimens from patients	82
Draw blood	74
Inventory medical supplies or instruments	67
Maintain dental or medical records	64
Prepare patients for tests, therapy, or treatments	70
Record medical history or data	68
Take vital signs	56
Use interpersonal communication techniques	10
Use knowledge of medical insurance systems	99
Use knowledge of medical terminology	40
Use medical lab techniques	81
Use sanitation practices in health care settings	48
Weigh patients	75

Not all positions in these occupations will necessarily perform all of the listed activities. The exclusivity rating is an indication of how unique the activity is amongst all occupations. The maximum rating is 100. High scores indicate that only a small number of occupations engage in that activity.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

## Tools and Technologies that Both Occupations Have in Common

Similarity of Focus  
Occupation to Associated  
Occupation: 84

**Focus Occupation: Physician Assistants (29-1071)**  
**Associated Occupation: Medical Assistants (31-9092)**

Tools and Technologies	Exclusivity
Ambulation and transfer and positioning aids for the physically challenged	27
Blood pressure units and related products	11
Casting and splinting supplies	25
Casting equipment and parts and accessories	47
Computer printers	2
Computers	1
Content authoring and editing software	1
Electrocardiography EKG units and related products	20
Hearing testing products	31
Industry specific software	1
Information exchange software	1
Injection and aspiration needles and accessories	25
Intubation supplies	21
Laboratory microscope slides and supplies	20
Medical diagnostic x ray products	26
Medical suction and vacuum products	33
Network applications software	1
Ophthalmic diagnostic exam products	27
Pulmonary function testing and treatment products	24
Respiratory humidity and aerosol therapy products	31
Scopes and specula and accessories for medical exam diagnostic use	23
Security and control equipment	30
Specimen collection and transport containers and supplies	14
Stethoscopes and related products	14
Surgical equipment and accessories and related products	23
Suture and related products	23
Syringes and accessories	14
Viewing and observing instruments and accessories	4

Not all positions in these occupations will necessarily use all of the listed tools and technologies. The exclusivity rating is an indication of how unique the tool or technology is amongst all occupations. The maximum rating is 100. High scores indicate that only a small number of occupations use that tool or technology.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.